

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00261 101234Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

IO-11 /117 W

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R 101158Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1330

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS DOHA 0261

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, QA

SUBJ:GOQ MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM CALLS FOR CLOSER
COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES; 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER OF OIL

1. INTERVIEW WITH QATAR NEWS AGENCY PUBLISHED IN MARCH 8
EDITION OF DOHA DAILY "AL ARAB", GOQ MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
PETROLEUM SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN KHALIFA AL THANI (WHO IS ALSO
AMIR'S SON) CALLED FOR A CONFERENCE OF GULF STATES AIMED AT
CLOSER COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS. HE WARNED THAT "MAJOR
POWERS" HAVE DESIGNS ON AREA AND STATED
ALERTNESS AND COORDINATION ON PART OF GULF COUNTRIES NECESSARY
TO PREVENT "LOOTING" OF REGION.

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2. ABDUL AZIZ NOTED THERE ARE BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOME GULF STATES BUT STATED THAT THESE SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF CLOSER REGIONAL COOPERATION. HE LAID BLAME FOR CURRENT PROBLEMS AMONG STATES AT FEET OF "COLONIAL POWERS" THAT HAD OCCUPIED AREA. HE SAID THAT WHILE COMPLETE UNITY MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS, STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR CLOSER COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF EDUCATION, ECONOMY, FINANCE AND CULTURE AS PRELIMINARY. HE SPECIFICALLY URGED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GULF COMMON MARKET, WHICH AMIR HAS PLUGGED FOR FREQUENTLY WHEN SPEAKING ON GULF AFFAIRS.

3. ON SUBJECT OF QATAR'S OIL, ABDUL AZIZ SAID COUNTRY WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET DEVELOPMENT GOALS WITHOUT COMPLETE CONTROL OVER PETROLEUM INDUSTRY AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ONSHORE OPERATOR, QATAR PETROLEUM COMPANY, FOR 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THREE MONTHS.
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